

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 011141Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2330
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY SANA
USINT BAGHDAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MILI BA IR
SUBJ: MEDIA COMMENT ON MIDEASTFOR

REF: KUWAIT 2275

1. REF MADE IN LUDINGTON ARTICLE, "REPRIEVE FOR US FACILITY IN BAHRAIN" (REFTEL) THAT "IRAN HAS NEVER ABANDONED ITS CLAIM TO BAHRAIN" HAS DRAWN MEDIA COMMENT HERE. TEHRAN DAILY AYANDEGAN ON APRIL 28 IN POLITICAL COMMENTARY COLUMN NOTED THAT PUBLICATION OF WHAT THE LABEL ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT ON IRANJS TERRITORIAL CLAIMS ON BAHRAIN COINCIDES WITH VISIT OF BAHRAIN'S MINISTER OF INFORMATION TO IRAN AND SHOULD BE GIVEN "SPECIAL THOUGHT." AYANDEGAN CORRESPONDENT CLAIMS THAT "THOSE WHO ARE NOT PLEASED ABOUT IRAN'S STRENGTH IN THE REGION ARE RESORTING TO THE OLD POLICY OF SOWING DISTRUST AND DISCORD AFTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALL OTHER TRICKS HAVE FAILED"... "ASSOCIATED PRESS IS OPENLY LYING IN AN ATTEMPT TO SOW DISCORD BETWEEN IRAN AND BAHRAIN WHICH HAVE THE BEST OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THEM".

2. ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEHRAN JOURNAL SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT ALI JAHAN-SHAHI ON APRIL 28 REFERS TO REPORTS THAT US NAVAL FACILITIES WILL REMAIN IN BAHRAIN AND ALLEGES, "IF REPORTS

PROVE TO BE CORRECT, OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD NOT CERTAINLY BE RECEIVED FAVORABLY IN THE PERSIAN GULF, WHERE THE POPULAR IDEA IS TO KEEP OUTSIDE POWERS IN GENERAL AND THE TWO SUPERPOWERS IN PARTICULAR, AWAY FROM THE REGION". JAHAN-SHAHI NOTED THAT IRAQ HAS ATTEMPTED TO JUSTIFY ITS GRANTING OF NAVAL FACILITIES TO THE SOVIET UNION IN BASRA WITH THE EXCUSE THAT OTHER SUPERPOWERS ARE PRESENT IN THE GULF. ACCORDING TO JAHAN-SHAHI THE BAHRAIN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT US NAVAL FACILITIES WOULD BE TERMINATED "WAS WIDELY WELCOMED IN THE REGION"; HE WONDERS WHAT THE REGIONAL REACTION WILL BE TO ANY CHANGE IN BAHRAINI POLICY.

3. COMMENT: JAHAN-SHAHI TOLD PAO THAT HIS INFORMATION ON US NAVAL REPRIEVE CAME FROM BAHRAINI OFFICIALS HERE. ALTHOUGH NOT STATED IN TEHRAN JOURNAL COMMENTARY, JAHAN-SHAHI INDICATED TO PAO THAT THERE IS NO PARTICULAR FEELING THE THE REGION THAT US NAVAL FORCES SHOULD DEPART FROM THE PERSIAN GULF BEFORE SOVIET FORCES LEAVE BASRA.

4. WITH REGARD TO AYANDEGAN ARTICLE, IRAN'S LONG-STANDING CLAIM TO BAHRAIN WAS RESOLVED IN 1970 WHEN THE IRANIAN PARLIAMENT ADOPTED A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE OF BAHRAIN. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT THE GOI IS CONSIDERING ANY REVIEW OF ITS ACQUIESCENCE IN BAHRAIN INDEPENDENCE. END COMMENT.
MIKLOS

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